



Parent & Student
Guide to English
G.C.S.E

This leaflet has been written to aid you to understand the English G.C.S.E. course, and help you to enable your child to succeed in their coursework and exams.

Overview

In Year 10,
students undertake the G.C.S.E course,
which will run throughout Years 10 and 11.
The course will result in two G.C.S.E s
English and **English Literature**.

It will develop skills learnt at Key Stage 3,
and continue the study of media, plays, poetry and novels,
including different types of writing for
various audiences and purposes.

It is normal practice
for your child to have the same English teacher
for the duration of the two years,
unless in exceptional circumstances.



English Coursework

It is expected that students complete all their coursework by the Easter holidays in year 10. Students will complete two coursework folders -



one for **English (40% of their final grade)**
and one for **English Literature (30% of their final grade)**.



There are **SIX** pieces of coursework, as follows:

Coursework	English	English Literature	Date due
Writing to explore, imagine, entertain OR inform, explain, describe	☺		Sept H/Term
Writing to argue, persuade, advise OR analyse, review, comment	☺		Sept H/Term
Shakespeare	☺	☺	Christmas
Poetry from Other Cultures	☺	☺	Christmas
Prose (Novel)		☺	Feb H/T
Pre & Post 1914 Poetry (Comparative)		☺	Easter

English Exams

Students sit three exams during Year 11, as follows:

English Paper 1: November exam	Section A: Prose reading (unseen) Section B: Descriptive & Imaginative Writing (EITHER a description of a place OR an imaginative narrative)
English Paper 2: November exam	Section A: Non-Fiction & Media reading (unseen) Section B: Transactional & Discursive Writing (EITHER Argue, Persuade, Ad-
English Literature: May exam	Novel, Play and Poetry (unseen)

Speaking & Listening:

Students will undertake a number of speaking and listening assignments during the two years. This is an essential part of the course and will result in a G.C.S.E. grade for Oral Communication. This will be 20% of total coursework marks



Tips for Success

To succeed in English at G.C.S.E. your child will need to be able to read with understanding, plan effectively and write clearly and accurately.

An ability to share ideas in small and large groups would be an advantage. Independent learning skills - the ability to research and follow up ideas on their own will be essential. They should be able to manage time effectively and meet deadlines.

Wide Reading:

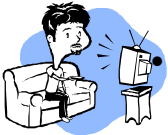
Since the majority of the English examinations rely on reading unseen texts and writing for different audience and purposes, it would be extremely beneficial for your child to be as widely read as possible.



This could include:

- A quality newspaper
- Letters, leaflets, pamphlets, information texts
- Fiction/Non-fiction texts

Some quality literature (plays, novels and poetry in particular)



It would also be helpful for students to find out about major historical developments and current affairs. They will also need to know about the social, historical and cultural context their literary texts were written in. They could do this by viewing quality programmes:

- news reports
- documentaries
- historical or factual programmes e.g. Simon Schama or David Starkey

During Year 10, students may wish to prepare for the Literature exam.

Your examined texts will differ depending on teacher/ability/group.

However, teachers should be able to give details on texts their class will study at the beginning of the year.





Study Skills:

The English course is difficult and there is a lot of work to cover in the two years. It is essential that students develop their independent study skills, in order to cope with the work load.

Some pupils find Critical Support books helpful in improving their understanding of Literature texts, e.g. York Notes, Letts Guides, (these are around £5.00 from Waterstones and other quality bookshops, available from the Critics & Theory section. WHSmiths also stock CGP Guides to support students in preparation for their GCSE English exams.

Students will often be assigned research tasks, but should try to supplement their work in the classroom with extra study. This can be done in many ways:

- The school **Learning Resource Centre** - contains, books, newspapers, DVDs, CD-ROM and other resources to aid study.
- The school **Virtual Learning Environment** - is a growing resource that has activities and will contain lessons/activities to aid learning. SAM Learning and Moodle are available from home!
- The Internet**- many topics can be researched on the internet.



Some useful sites are:

General/Revision

bbc.co.uk/education
revisionactive.com
revisionbuster.com
homeworkhigh.com
s-cool.co.uk
gcse.com
revisiontime.com
englishplus.com
Englishbiz.co.uk
warringtonagridforlearning.gov.uk
teachit.co.uk

Literature

sparknotes.com
englishresources.co.uk
novelguide.com
bibliomania.com (you can find full on-line versions of literature texts here)
allshakespeare.com
homework-online.com